

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated December 23, 2004 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and rejected claims 5-8, 10-11 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

As indicated above, claims 1-17 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 18-32 have been added.

Claim 18 claims a printer control device for controlling a printer and claim 23 claims a method for controlling a printer. The device and method provide a user with an option to select whether at least one security code a) is required for both first printing of print data and a reprinting of the print data or b) is required only for the reprinting of the print data.

Through the structure and method of the claimed invention providing a user with an option to select whether at least one security code is required for both printing and reprinting or only for reprinting as claimed in claims 18 and 23, the claimed invention provides an apparatus and method which allows printed matter to be obtained more quickly while securing confidentiality of the printing data. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 18 and 23.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Huddleston et al* (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0103140).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims and allows the claims to issue.

Huddleston et al appears to disclose [0002] methods and devices that allow for or provide access to remotely stored data within such systems. [0029] Referring to FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, a methodology for implementing the service will now be discussed in view of the elements illustrated in FIGS. 1-3. At 401, a user sends data to a user account at the computer network 14 via, for example, a personal computer 20 that has a network connection to the Internet 18. This is done by, for example, sending the data via an ftp connection to the computer network 14, emailing the data to the computer network 14, faxing the data to the computer network 14, or uploading the data to the computer network 14 via a website. The data sent to the computer network 14 may be, for example, a completed text document. At 403, the computer network 14 receives this data via the network connection, associates the data with the user account and stores the data in the memory source 24 for future retrieval. Optionally, at 405 the computer network 14 can notify the user that the data was successfully saved and is available for retrieval. This can be done by, for example, sending a text message to the subscriber device 12 of the user via the network connection to the Internet 18. [0032] At 421, the computer network or server 14 forwards an output job, for example, a print job to the particular output device selected by the user via the network connection to the Internet 18. The print job includes the particular data, print instructions and any additional parameters specified by the client. At 423, the server 14 queries a map database to obtain directional information for the particular output device. This directional information is stored for later forwarding to the subscriber device 12 of the client. The map database may be, for example, a website. [0033] At 425, it is determined whether the data requested by the user is or is expected to be secure data. This can be done

by, for example, reviewing the print options of the client request or file properties. If the data is determined to not be secure data, then at 427 the particular output device accepts the print job and forwards a job code to the server 14. The server 14 receives the job code and forwards it to the subscriber device 12 along with the directional information of the particular output device. The forwarding is done via network connections, preferably, to the Internet 18. At 429, the user or subscriber device receives the job code and directional information and the method moves via B to FIG. 5. [0034] If the data is determined to be secure data at 425, then (following A to FIG. 5) at 431 the particular output device accepts the print job and forwards the job code and a secure code to the server 14. The server 14 receives the job code and secure code, and forwards them along with the directional information of the particular output device to the subscriber device 12 of the client. At 433, the user receives the job code, secure code and directional information. At 435, the particular output device queues the print job for customer arrival. At 437, the client arrives at the particular output device, and enters the secure code on, for example, a printer console.

Thus, *Huddleston et al* merely discloses that an output device queues a print job for a customer and when the client arrives, he enters a security code. Thus, nothing in *Huddleston et al* shows, teaches or suggests an option to select whether a security code is required for both printing and reprinting or required only for reprinting as claimed in new claims 18 and 23. Rather, *Huddleston et al* is merely directed to requiring a security code for printing.

Since nothing in *Huddleston et al* shows, teaches or suggests the features as claimed in new claims 18-32, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner allows new claims 18-32.

Claims 5-8, 10-11 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Mori* (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

Mori appears to disclose a printing system in which print data created by an application program and transferred to a printer is stored and managed in a print data storage device, providing that the print data is authorized for reprinting. A printer monitor is provided to constantly monitor the printer for a request to retransmit data that has already been printed. When such a retransmission request from the printer is detected, the print data requested for retransmission is specified in the print data storage device and is transmitted to the printer for reprinting. (abstract) As shown in FIG. 3, the printer control portion 31 of the printer 10 is constructed from: a CPU 11 for controlling the entire printer 10; a ROM 12 used to store various control programs such as a main control program and print programs (printer controller 31) shown in FIGS. 7 and 8; a RAM 13 including various buffers for temporarily storing print data transmitted from the computer 20 and storing a printer job management table T2 (which will be described later); a control unit 17 for enabling the user to input commands such as a reprint command; a liquid crystal display 18 (hereinafter referred to as a LCD 18) for displaying a list of reprintable print data in the printer job

management table T2; a print mechanism 16 for printing on a recording medium according to the transmitted print data; a driver circuit 15 for communicating with the print mechanism 16; and various sensors 14. (col. 3, lines 14-29) It may also be possible to prohibit non-specific users from reprinting a document by requiring the user in S30 to input his/her password or the like. In this case, for example, if the determination made in S30 is negative, the CPU 21 adds the header data with: data indicating that the print data is restricted from reprinting; and the user's inputted password data. The printer 10 will display that the subject print data is restricted from reprinting and can be reprinted only when the appropriate password is inputted. (col. 12, lines 26-34)

Thus, *Mori* merely discloses requiring a user to input a password to reprint a document. Nothing in *Mori* shows, teaches or suggests selecting whether a security code is required for both printing and reprinting or only required for reprinting as claimed in claims 18 and 23. Rather, *Mori* merely discloses requiring a security code for reprinting.

Since nothing in *Mori* shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claims 18-32, applicants respectfully request the Examiner allow new claims 18-32.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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